

PRESS RELEASE

July 21, 2025

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August 23 - November 15, 2025
Opening party Saturday, August 23, 5-7pm
Closing reception with the artist, Saturday, November 15, 7-9pm
Viewing hours Saturdays 12-5pm

(Portland, OR) - SOCIETY is honored to present a solo exhibition by Berlin-based artist Christian Alborz Oldham entitled *Having no talent is not enough*. The exhibition opens August 23, 2025 and continues through November 15, 2025. Oldham will join us November 15 for a closing reception.

Having no talent is not enough is a concise edit of works in print, sculpture, painting, and publication, including *Moon High School*, a new 200,000-word florilegium published by SOCIETY on the occasion of the exhibition.

Each of these works is a double: bootleg, replication, edition, pair. Some are artifacts of research of a connoisseurial nature that additionally attends to the historical. One is reminded of another thread of Oldham's work that traced the trans-Pacific reciprocal flow of historical cultural influence through the works of an avant-garde fashion designer. But there are also here images of that category of casual observational or representational catch-and-release that one once found on tumblr and are now a social media commonplace.

It's not the questions of authorship, appropriation, fabrication, replication raised by these works that preoccupy us. These questions have been well and properly wrung out after a century of their exercise in modern and contemporary art practices and discourses although taken together they do say something about the practice of contemporary art in 2025. Rather, SOCIETY is interested in the social dimensions of Oldham's works to include reception and its delays, assertions of a genealogy, the auto-production of discourse, modes and means of circulation of image and text through which social forms may be constructed.

SOCIETY posits additionally that attention to these vertical and horizontal temporal axes is the underpainting, as it were, of art history, taking up the question Seth Siegelaub posed in 2011 through a poster edition recently made again by Oldham in their exhibition at Kunstverein München: "How is Art History Made?"

Christian Alborz Oldham

Christian Alborz Oldham's practice presents a ludic approach to the politics surrounding production, re-production, and reception with a particular interest in garments and textiles, technology, copy, transaction, and economics. These concepts are explored in a dedicated practice of ikebana, an art form resistant to permanent exhibition, sale, and preservation. Oldham holds an MFA from University of Washington, a BA in Art History and MBA from Willamette University, and has certification as a freestyle sense from the Ryusei school of ikebana.

SOCIETY

art, its discourses and histories
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